

RECREATIONAL FIRES ORDINANCE SUMMARY

It is proposed that Title 9 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, relating to Fire and Police Protection, be amended by adding a new Chapter 178, relating to Recreational Fires. Currently, recreational fires within the City of Minneapolis are regulated by the International Fire Code as enforced by the Minneapolis Fire Marshall and the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The proposed Chapter 178 simply puts into a more readily accessible form the already-existing provisions of the International Fire Code along with a few more stringent regulations (the City is allowed to impose more stringent but not less stringent requirements than the Fire Code).

The proposed provisions which would be more restrictive than the Fire Code include:

- Specifying that the fuel source must be wood that has not been painted or treated.
- Requiring that a barrier of non-combustible material (i.e. stones, fire ring, earth) at least 6 inches high surround the fire.
- Requiring that at least one attendant of the fire be an adult.
- Restricting recreational fires to between 9:00 a.m. & 8:00 p.m.
- Not allowing recreational fires when winds are in excess of 10 m.p.h.

Additionally, the draft makes it clear that any fire fighter, fire inspector, or police officer may extinguish a non-compliant recreational fire or one that causes a nuisance to any neighbor. Also, a citation can be issued for any violation of the ordinance carrying with it an \$80 petty misdemeanor fine.

All of the other provisions in the draft ordinance (for example, the requirement that recreational fires be at least 25 ft. from any structure, etc.) come directly from the Fire Code. The main purpose of this proposed ordinance is to put the City's recreational fire policy in ordinance form so that it is more readily accessible to citizens and dispatch operators and to enable the police to aid in enforcement of the policy.
